

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
December 4 - 10, 2014

1. [Russian Arms Control Violation Prompts Joint Staff Assessment](#) (12-10-2014)
2. [AF Secretary: ISIL Fight Requires Comprehensive Approach](#) (12-10-2014)
3. [Resolute Support Will Cement Afghan Gains, Official Says](#) (12-10-2014)
4. [Clear Land Mines off the Earth, Says Secretary Kerry](#) (12-08-2014)
5. [President Nominates Carter as Next Defense Secretary](#) (12-05-2014)
6. [Kerry on Ukraine at OSCE Meeting in Switzerland](#) (12-04-2014)
7. [Kerry at London Conference on Afghanistan](#) (12-04-2014)
8. [State Dept. Facts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification Initiative](#) (12-04-2014)

1. [Russian Arms Control Violation Prompts Joint Staff Assessment](#) (12-10-2014)

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 2014 – Russian violation of an arms control agreement poses a threat to U.S. and its allies’ security interests, leading the Joint Staff to conduct a military assessment of its threat, a senior defense official said here today.

Brian P. McKeon, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy, testified alongside Rose Gottemoeller, undersecretary of state for international security, in a joint hearing before the House Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on strategic forces, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s subcommittee on terrorism, nonproliferation and trade regarding Russian noncompliance with the Intermediate Nuclear-Range Forces treaty.

In the course of “closely” monitoring compliance of arms control treaties, McKeon said, it was determined that Russia was in violation of the INF treaty.

Joint Staff Assessment

Despite diplomatic engagement on the issue since 2013, McKeon said, Russia continues to remain in noncompliance.

“As a result of Russia’s actions,” McKeon said, “the Joint Staff has conducted a military assessment of the threat were Russia to deploy an INF treaty-range ground-launch cruise missile in Europe or the Asia-Pacific region.”

“This assessment has led us to review a broad range of military response options,” he said, “and to consider the effect each option could have on convincing Russian leadership to return to compliance with the INF treaty, as well as countering the capability of a Russian INF treaty-prohibited system.”

McKeon emphasized that the department doesn’t want to engage in an “escalatory cycle” of action and reaction.

“However, Russia’s lack of meaningful engagement on this issue -- if it persists -- will ultimately require the United States to take actions to protect its interests and security along with those of its allies and partners,” he said.

“Those actions will make Russia less secure,” McKeon added.

Treaty Importance, Steps Taken

“We believe the INF treaty contributes to not only U.S. and Russian security,” he said, “but also to that of our allies and partners.”

“For that reason, Russian possession, development or deployment of a weapons system in violation of the treaty will not be ignored,” McKeon said.

From the beginning, he said, the objective has been to preserve the viability of the INF treaty and convince Russia to come back into compliance with its obligations under it.

The U.S. has engaged Russia, McKeon said, with a multi-pronged approach beginning with diplomatic engagement while discussing other potential measures in coordination with allies.

“Unfortunately, Russia has not been forthcoming with any information, nor has it acknowledged the existence of a non-compliant cruise missile,” he said.

“Instead, the Russian side has chosen to accuse the United States of violating its obligations under the INF treaty,” he said. “In our view, all of Russian’s claims are categorically unfounded.”

McKeon said the U.S. has been, and remains, in compliance with all of its obligations under the INF treaty, which was fully addressed during a September meeting with Russian officials in Moscow.

“These Russian claims, we believe, are meant to divert attention away from its own violations,” he said.

Gottemoeller testified that in addition to the INF treaty Russia is also in violation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe treaty and there are concerns with its compliance with other treaties as well.

Challenges Ahead

Despite a “significant challenge” ahead, McKeon said, there are hopes the Russian federation will remember why the Soviet Union signed the INF treaty in the first place.

“By agreeing to that treaty, the United States and Soviet Union ensured that both parties benefitted from the removal of weapons systems that posed a real and credible threat to European security,” he said.

McKeon reiterated that the U.S. takes treaty compliance “very seriously,” and the ramifications of Russia’s actions and a U.S. response affect more than just one arms control agreement.

“They affect our agreement to pursue future arms control and nonproliferation regimes,” he said. “Such a violation threatens our security and the collective security of many allies and partners.”

“This violation will not go unanswered, because there is too much at stake,” McKeon said.

Biographies:

[Brian P. McKeon](#)

Related Sites:

[Undersecretary of Defense for Policy](#)

2. AF Secretary: ISIL Fight Requires Comprehensive Approach (12-10-2014)

By Amaani Lyle

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 2014 – The air campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is working as part of the ongoing joint effort to disrupt, degrade and destroy the terrorist organization, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said here last night.

Speaking at a conference sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, James said the Air Force has executed more than 60 percent of all airstrike missions to date against ISIL in Iraq and Syria, in addition to more than 90 percent of the mobility, humanitarian, tanker and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in the region.

“We have been huge in this fight,” James said. “With all due respect for ... the important debate about ‘the boots on ground,’ I’m grateful that we have so many fine boots in the air, and an awful lot of those boots are United States Air Force.”

Air Campaign Part of Comprehensive Approach

But the air campaign alone is but one tool in a comprehensive approach to stabilize the region and thwart terrorist networks, the Air Force secretary said. The fight will take time, she added, and any “boots on the ground” ideally will be the Iraqi army and the Syrian elements that U.S. forces and their allies will help to train. The Iraqi government also has an important role, James said.

“This is not just a military thing,” the secretary said. “This has got to be a political solution, and ultimately, there needs to be various accommodations, particularly in Iraq.”

Iraq’s new prime minister gives her hope in the nation’s political and military evolution, James said, noting relatively swift “disrupt” and “degrade” successes against ISIL. The “destroy” aspect of the conflict calls for the most patience, she added.

“We’ve been hitting hard those oil refineries; we’ve been attacking their sources of income ... and training,” she said. “But we’ve got to all get our heads around the fact that we’re in this for the long ballgame. This is not a short ballgame.”

Biographies:

[Deborah Lee James](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Operation Inherent Resolve - Targeted Operations Against ISIL Terrorists](#)

Related Articles:

[Airstrikes Target ISIL Terrorists’ Facilities, Capabilities](#)

[3. Resolute Support Will Cement Afghan Gains, Official Says \(12-10-2014\)](#)

By Jim Garamone

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

BAGRAM, Afghanistan, Dec. 10, 2014 – The Operation Resolute Support mission that formally begins Jan. 1 provides the chance to cement in place all of the security gains made in Afghanistan, a senior U.S. commander said here yesterday.

As the International Security Assistance Force mission winds down and transitions to Resolute Support, coalition personnel will assist Afghans to develop a new set of capabilities that will sustain the national security forces, Army Maj. Gen. John M. Murray, deputy commander for support at U.S. Forces Afghanistan, told DoD News.

“We’ve done a lot of great work at the kandak, or battalion, and brigade levels, and the Afghans really proved themselves during the course of last year’s fighting season,” Murray said. “That’s continuing.”

The Afghan army and police are handling Taliban attacks on their own. Murray said the number of attacks is a bit higher than it’s been historically, and that he anticipates that will continue during next year’s fighting season. “But I expect the Afghan national security forces will acquit themselves very well,” he added.

Advising, Assisting Afghan Corps and Ministries

American and coalition personnel already have shifted to their new missions and are advising and assisting at the Afghan corps level and with the Afghan government’s ministries. “That’s where the coalition work is being done now,” the general said. “That’s the crux of Operation Resolute Support.”

Operating an infantry unit takes bravery, good leadership and training. Making it effective takes much, much more, Murray noted. “These are the things we struggle with, too,” he said. “It’s the budgeting. It’s getting the right equipment to the right people at the right time.”

Murray also identified other areas upon which success will depend:

- Developing processes for gathering intelligence on enemy activities to get to a unit that can act on it in time to make a difference;

- Ensuring the Afghans have the assets to transport personnel to and from battlefields and have the capabilities to retrieve, evacuate and treat casualties; and
- Ensuring Afghan personnel know how to maintain weapons and equipment and fix them when they break, which in turn means having the right spare parts when they're needed.

These factors can be downright mundane, U.S. Forces Afghanistan officials said, but a military cannot be effective without them.

Shift in Responsibilities

Under ISAF, Regional Command East at Bagram Airfield owned the battle space of this area, located near Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. That is not the case now, and while Murray has combat units at his disposal, they are for force protection only.

The "battle space" now is with the Afghan corps and Afghanistan's Defense and Interior ministries. The coalition personnel skew older and have higher ranks than the typical unit, because the Afghans need personnel with experience in building these capabilities, Murray said. "They are all about developing the connective tissue between the corps, the Ministry of Defense, the police and the Ministry of the Interior," he added.

"We've been in and out of this country for 13 years, and now the biggest change is the mindset," Murray said. "Soldiers are coming back for their third or fourth rotation, but this is going to be fundamentally different. Those coming to the command need to approach it with a fresh perspective and an open mind."

Related Sites:

[NATO International Security Assistance Force](#)

4. Clear Land Mines off the Earth, Says Secretary Kerry (12-08-2014)

This commentary by Secretary of State John Kerry was published in the December 8 edition of [USA TODAY](#).

Clear Land Mines Off the Earth by John Kerry

Earlier this year, a 10-year-old boy was collecting scrap metal in Bosnia when he [stepped on a land mine](#), which killed him instantly. The mine was planted during a war of which the boy had no memory. Days later, a man met a similar fate only a few miles away. He had left home to gather firewood.

Land mines and other unexploded ordnance continue to endanger civilians in [more than 60 countries](#). Decades after soldiers have laid down their weapons and leaders have made peace, these grim legacies of war kill and maim local populations.

For more than two decades, the United States has been at the forefront of international efforts to remove these deadly devices and to address the humanitarian effects that these weapons can have on civilian populations.

Today, I released the annual [To Walk the Earth in Safety Report](#), which powerfully chronicles the progress we have made in clearing land mines from both battlefields and backyards.

Billions in U.S. aid

Since 1993, the U.S. has provided [more than \\$2.3 billion](#) in assistance in over 90 countries for conventional weapons destruction programs. Thanks to strong bipartisan support in Congress, these funds provide the expertise and equipment to safely clear land mines and other unexploded ordnance. They also provide medication, rehabilitation and vocational training for those injured by these deadly weapons.

For example, we helped clear former minefields so that [preschools might be built](#) in Sri Lanka. In Vietnam, onetime battlegrounds have been transformed into busy [commercial sectors](#). Children were once [tethered to trees](#) so they would not wander into killing fields in Angola. Today, large areas of the countryside have been made safe. And when flooding unearthed old mines in Serbia this year, the U.S. Quick Reaction Force [deployed](#) to contain the threat.

Our efforts to address the humanitarian impacts of land mines extend to our own weapons stockpiles.

In 1994, President Clinton pledged that we would work toward the [eventual elimination](#) of antipersonnel land mines. President George W. Bush [restricted the use](#) of land mines to only those with self-destruct or self-deactivation features. In September, President Obama brought us one step closer to the goal of a world free from anti-personnel land mines when he [announced](#) that we will no longer use them outside of the unique circumstances of the Korean Peninsula.

U.S. plans to end use

That means the U.S. will no longer procure anti-personnel land mines, and we will begin [destroying](#) our anti-personnel land mine stockpiles not required for the defense of South Korea. And we will work to find ways that may ultimately allow us to accede to the Ottawa Convention — the international treaty that prohibits the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel land mines.

These steps reflect America's commitment to the global humanitarian movement. Just 15 years ago, land mines and other explosive remnants of war were killing and injuring nearly 10,000 men, women and children every year. In the most recent year for which data are available, [that figure has dropped](#) by over 60%.

[Fifteen countries](#) — from Honduras to Tunisia to Rwanda — are free from the impact of mines due to the efforts of the U.S. and our international partners in government and civil society.

But this work is far from finished. Too many of these armaments remain concealed, poised to maim anyone who takes a wrong step. Mines continue to be indiscriminately used by countries such as Syria and numerous non-state actors worldwide. [Victim-activated](#), improvised explosive devices are routinely employed by terrorist groups.

In my travels, I have met the victims of land mines. In Southeast Asia, I watched small children propel themselves along on little wagons through the streets. In Africa, I watched men and women balancing food baskets as they navigated through crowded streets on makeshift crutches. In Bogota,

I talked to soldiers and police officers wounded by mines left behind after Colombia's bloody conflict.

Their stories are heartbreaking. In less than a second, their lives were changed forever. Different countries, different stories, different times — but none of these victims was the enemy of anybody.

We can't heal their wounds. We can't give them back their lives or their limbs. But we can do more so that others will never suffer the same fate — and so that millions can walk the earth in safety.

Related Articles:

[Saving Lives Through Land Mine Removal, Weapons Destruction](#)

5. President Nominates Carter as Next Defense Secretary (12-05-2014)

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 2014 – President Barack Obama announced his selection of Ashton B. Carter to be the next defense secretary following the resignation of Chuck Hagel, who will remain in office until the U.S. Senate confirms a successor. Carter served as deputy defense secretary from October 2011 to December 2013, and prior to that served as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

Ashton B. Carter Biography

Ashton B. Carter served as the Deputy Secretary of Defense from October 2011 to December 2013.

Previously, Dr. Carter served as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics from April 2009 until October 2011. As Under Secretary, Dr. Carter led the Department's efforts to accelerate the fulfillment of urgent operational needs; increase the Department's buying power; and strengthen the nation's defenses against emerging threats.

Over the course of his career in public service, Dr. Carter has four times been awarded the Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medal. For his contributions to intelligence, Dr. Carter was awarded the Defense Intelligence Medal.

Dr. Carter earned bachelor's degrees in physics and in medieval history from Yale University, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and received his doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Prior to his most recent government service, Dr. Carter was chair of the International and Global Affairs faculty at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Co-Director of the Preventive Defense Project. Dr. Carter was also Senior Partner at Global Technology Partners, a member of the Aspen Strategy Group, a member of the Board of Trustees of the MITRE Corporation and the Advisory Boards of MIT's Lincoln Laboratories and the Draper Laboratory, and an advisor to Goldman Sachs.

During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Carter was Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy. From 1990 until 1993, Dr. Carter was Director of the Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Chairman of the Editorial Board of International Security. Previously, he held positions at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and Rockefeller University.

Dr. Carter is a member of the President's Management Council and the National Council on Federal-Labor-Management Relations. He has previously served on the White House Government Accountability and Transparency Board, the Defense Science Board, the Defense Policy Board, the Secretary of State's International Security Advisory Board, and the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States.

Dr. Carter is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Diplomacy and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Physical Society.

In addition to authoring articles, scientific publications, government studies, and Congressional testimonies, Dr. Carter has co-edited and co-authored eleven books.

Dr. Carter is married to Stephanie Carter and has two grown children.

6. Kerry on Ukraine at OSCE Meeting in Switzerland (12-04-2014)

Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at OSCE Ministerial Plenary Session, Basel, Switzerland

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you, President Burkhalter, for hosting us, and thanks to you and your team for chairing the OSCE during a very turbulent year. Your excellencies, when this ministerial last convened, tens of thousands of Ukrainian citizens were on the Maidan. And they were not intimidated by police violence, the threat of further repression, or the freezing weather. They were warmed by a simple desire: to live in a country with an honest government. The people of Ukraine continue to persevere. Through – tested by external aggression, they are casting off the shackles of repression and opening a new and promising chapter in their nation's history. Twice in the past year, they have chosen new leaders through genuine democratic elections, and President Poroshenko and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk have pledged to implement a robust agenda of reforms designed to make Ukraine more secure, just, inclusive, prosperous, and free.

As the people of Ukraine have fought for their country, the OSCE has played a pivotal role. The organization has proven to the world the value of collective security and human rights instruments that we have built there, and underlined how important it is that these tools be allowed to work. In Ukraine, the OSCE has deployed the Special Monitoring Mission and used the Vienna Document to send inspection teams. The High Commission on National Minorities and Representatives on Freedom of the Media have supported civil society, documented abuses, and defended the voiceless in Crimea and other parts of Ukraine. ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly organized the largest election observation effort in OSCE history, and the list goes on.

The international community is united in condemning the violence that has led to so much needless suffering in Ukraine, but the violence continues. Regrettably, Russia continues to supply new weapons and increase support for armed separatists. In doing so, it fails to meet its international and OSCE obligations and to live up to an agreement that it actually negotiated and signed. The result is damage to its credibility, and its own citizens wind up paying a steep economic and human price, including the price of hundreds of Russian soldiers who fight and die in a country where they had and have no right to be.

So let me emphasize: The United States and countries that support Ukraine's sovereignty and rights do not seek confrontation. It is not our design or desire that we see a Russia isolated through its own actions. In fact, we are convinced that Moscow could rebuild trust and relationships if it simply helps to calm turbulent waters, if it takes steps now to implement the Minsk protocol in letter and spirit, end support for violence in eastern Ukraine, withdraw Russian weapons and fighters, use its influence on the separatists to release all hostages, guarantee safe and unfettered access for OSCE monitors, cooperate in securing and respecting the entire internationally-recognized Ukrainian-Russian border, and end the illegal occupation of Crimea. No one gains from this confrontation. The nations around this table have too much work to do, too many common challenges, from terrorism and nuclear proliferation to epidemic disease and climate change.

My friends, more broadly, the crisis that we have experienced in Europe this past year is not the fault of the international system. It stems from the unwillingness of individual actors to abide by the rules and the principles of that system. When rules are broken, they need to be enforced, not rewritten. Despite numerous violations of Helsinki this year, the timeless wisdom of the final act – that sustainable security can only be achieved when fundamental freedoms and human rights are protected – has been reaffirmed. To build a more secure OSCE area, we need to acknowledge the serious failure of some member states to live up to their responsibilities, and these failures affect us all. In too many of the countries gathered here, the space for independent civil society and media is shrinking, breeding abuses of power and corruption. Laws have been enacted that repress religious freedom and unfairly punish legitimate political dissent. We have seen a rising tide of intolerance across the OSCE region, including hate crimes targeting Roma, Jews, Muslims, the LGBT community, and others. This organization is at its best when it sheds light where there is darkness and when it stands up against repression and for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including internet freedom. It is at its best when it speaks out, when we speak out, when society and independent activists and journalists – wherever people's rights are denied or in jeopardy.

In closing, I thank President Burkhalter once again for his stewardship, the people of Switzerland for their hospitality, and we look forward to working with Prime Minister Vucic and Foreign Minister Dacic during Serbia's chairmanship next year. And you will be sure that you will have our support as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Thank you.

Related Sites:

[OSCE](#)

7. Kerry at London Conference on Afghanistan (12-04-2014)

Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at the London Conference on Afghanistan, Lancaster House, London, United Kingdom

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you very much, all of you, for being here. And thank you for the privilege of being part of this very important conference. And I want to thank Prime Minister Cameron for hosting and, you, President Ghani for cohosting this effort. We saw each other in Brussels. You've been on a whirlwind tour, and I will tell everybody here that everywhere that he Chief Executive Abdullah are going they are impressing people. And I will tell you this is one person who is not surprised.

I had the privilege of spending quite a few hours in Kabul during the post-election period, prior to the creation of the unity government. And during that time, I saw two men, both of whom were convinced, and took steps to prove it, that Afghanistan was far more important than them

personally. And we are here today at a very different kind of meeting than might've taken place because they were both willing to exhibit enormous leadership, statesmanship, and were prepared to put their own political interests, as manifested through many of their supporters, behind the interests of unity and of country. And I will tell you, I think that augurs enormously well for the future. That's why I think we can come to this conference with considerable confidence.

At the Tokyo conference two years ago, we all agreed that we would meet this year here in London and take stock. And we are taking stock in a very different place than we might have been were it not for their choices. Since the time of Tokyo, Afghanistan has obviously made enormous progress. It's just a transformation taking place, and you have to go there to see it and feel it, notwithstanding the difficulties of security, the difficulties of an insurgent force that still chooses to kill people randomly rather than offer a platform for progress and for the future. So Afghan forces have now assumed responsibility for security across the country, with the United States and our international allies shifting to a supporting role.

Politically, Afghans achieved something incredible. They achieved the first democratic transfer of power from one elected leader to another in their entire history. And they have continued to work to improve governance. They have committed not just to maintaining but to building on the progress that was made in the last decade, including continued advances in respect to the rights of women and girls. I was there last year and met with 10 women entrepreneurs, who were among the most remarkable women I've ever met, each of whom were taking extraordinary risks to be leaders, but they were making a remarkable difference. Their voices and their votes gave Afghans the clarity that they will not tolerate any backsliding, and nor should we. This is a country whose leaders and whose people are wisely focused on the future.

In Tokyo, Afghanistan and its partners pledged to go forward based on mutual accountability and sustainability. That framework remains the touchstone for gauging progress. President Ghani and CEO Abdullah have presented a reform agenda that commits to these principles, and they've begun backing up these words with action already. During their short time in office, they've taken steps to combat money laundering and corruption, improve the country's fiscal situation, and foster better relations with their neighbors, including importantly – perhaps most importantly – Pakistan.

One specific area where the new Afghans' Government's engagement has made a meaningful impact is in expanding economic connectivity across the region. I welcome the agreement yesterday between Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan on the CASA-1000 electricity transmission project. Advancing this project to completion would make real the idea of a regional energy market connecting South and Central Asia. This project is important because Afghanistan's economic future depends on improved connectivity with regional and international markets. And to facilitate that broader goal, I am pleased to report that the United States and Afghanistan have agreed to improve private sector links between our countries by issuing visas that will be valid longer and will allow for multiple entries for eligible business travelers, students, exchange visitors, and tourists.

The United States has met the commitments that we made in Tokyo to support Afghanistan's development, and we are convinced that this extraordinary commitment of U.S. support serves our long-term national security interests in Afghanistan, in the region, as well as assists Afghanistan to stand on its own two feet. And we are committed to ensuring that Afghanistan can never again be used as a safe haven from which terrorists can threaten the international community. We know that the most effective way to advance this objective is to support Afghanistan's political unity and its security. Between 2012 and 2015, we will have provided more than 8 billion in civilian assistance, and the Administration will continue to request from Congress extraordinary levels of assistance

through 2017 and gradually declining levels beyond that date, consistent with the terms of the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by our two governments in 2012. And we will continue, clearly, to invest in Afghanistan's growth and development.

Looking ahead, we will engage regularly and constructively with Afghan leaders both in government and civil society to assist where and when we can. And we are confident that the policies outlined today by President Ghani and CEO Abdullah will result in a more stable and prosperous Afghanistan. So this is really an extraordinary moment of transition. It's a moment of transformation, and the possibilities are so enormous. It's hard to think that those who want to go backwards have the ability to interrupt progress in the way that they do, but what is clear to me is the majority of the people of Afghanistan by vast proportions – 85, 90 percent – are supporting this president and supporting the current direction of Afghanistan. While recognizing this progress, we also need to be realistic and remain conscious that there are these threats. And we need to recognize the urgency, therefore, of continuing to back the Afghan people, which is what brings us here to London for this conference.

My friends, we have a government in Kabul that merits our confidence and our support. And never before has the prospect of a more fully independent and sustainable Afghanistan been more clear than it is at this moment as we assemble here in London. The Afghan people should be very proud of this progress. And as they continue to move forward, they can be confident of the support of the international community. The many countries represented here today have been and must continue to be generous in our financial commitment. We must all help the Afghan people to build the future that they deserve through sustained assistance, but also with the determination to respond to Afghan reforms with private investment, improved market access, and deeper economic engagement. A stable and a peaceful Afghanistan that is at peace with its neighbors is in the interests of all of us, and we all expect and hope for sure that the authorities in Kabul will make good on their promises.

One thing I have learned about this region is it's a region of unbelievable guts and grit and determination. There's no question in my mind that the pride of the people of Afghanistan, the people of Pakistan, the people of India could have a very different future facing them. This can be a powerhouse of an economic region, and with our help, with our ability to help this government to deliver the promises it has made, we can, I think, write a very different future for all of us for the long term. We have to be faithful to our commitments as our part of that bargain, and I'm confident that everybody here will do so, and together we will write a very different history for South Central Asia. Thank you. (Applause.)

8. State Dept. Facts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification Initiative (12-04-2014) **Fact Sheet**

An International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification

Seeking the peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons requires the international community to overcome significant technical challenges. As the President said in Prague in 2009, it will take patience and persistence.

In order to overcome these challenges, a common understanding of the technical issues associated with irreversible and verifiable disarmament is necessary, and in the interest of all states.

For this reason, the United States proposes an International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification that will bring together Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Nuclear Weapons

States (NWS) with NPT Non-nuclear Weapons States (NNWS) under a cooperative framework to further understanding of the complex challenges involved in the verification of nuclear disarmament, and to work to surmount those challenges.

The United States believes such engagement will strengthen the existing work towards the goals of the NPT, while furthering the role of NNWS in the challenging work of verification of nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear Disarmament Verification and Technical Obstacles

Future steps in nuclear disarmament are expected to pose significantly more complex and intrusive verification challenges than past steps. Success in addressing these future verification and monitoring challenges will be dependent, in part, on the development and application of new technologies or concepts. All countries have an interest in the success of these efforts. This need not be an area of engagement confined solely to the NWS. A larger, more diverse group of states with technical expertise in nuclear verification or the related sciences will contribute to the discussion and provide a broader intellectual basis for determining solutions.

The Partnership

The International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification will assess and, potentially, develop approaches to address monitoring and verification challenges across the nuclear weapons lifecycle – including material production and control, warhead production, deployment, storage, dismantlement, and disposition. The Partnership will build on lessons learned from efforts such as the U.S./U.K. Technical Cooperation Program and the U.K./Norway Initiative.

To take the International Partnership forward, the U.S. government will work with the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) through an official public-private partnership. Drawing from its recently concluded project, Innovating Verification, NTI will bring its expertise and resources to bear to help guide the process of standing up the International Partnership and assist in the development and implementation of a program of work.

Related Statements:

[State's Gottemoeller in Prague on Eliminating Nuclear Weapons](#)
